(e) Doordarshan telecasts only those films and programmes which are suitable for family viewing. In order to ensure this, the films certified by the Censor Board of Film Certification for universal screening only are telecast on Doordarshan. Further, all the programmes only are telecast on Doordarshan are previewed before telecast by in-house committees of Doordarshan to ensure that they conform to the Broadcasting and Commercial Advertising Code of Doordarshan.

[English]

Blue Coloured Uniform to SC's Childrens

1882. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the recent decision of the State Government of Maharashtra to give blue coloured uniform to the children belonging to scheduled castes as against standard white and Khaki uniform given to upper caste children;

(b) if so, whether crores of rupees worth of uniform were procured and were being distributed when the public outery forced the authorities to spend the move;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have enquired as to and at what level was the decision taken;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (f). The Government of Maharashtra has been since 1979 implementing the scheme of free supply of uniforms to the students belonging to SC/ST category from 1st to 4th standard in Zila Parishad Primary Schools. The State Government has not prescribed any particular colour or type of uniform for the students in primary schools of the Zila Parishad. However, by and large the boys wear Khaki pant and white shirt and girls wear blue skirt and white blouse as school dresses. The colour of Uniform supplied to SC/ST students free of cost was also alike.

The State Government decided to prescribe blue pant/sky blue shrit for the boys and blue skirt/sky blue blouse for girls w.e.f. 1995-96 on the Ground that white coloured dresses are difficult to maintain in rural area. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Minister of Rural Development and attended by Secretary Education Deptt., Secretary Rural Development and representatives of industries Deptt.

Although there was no intention of differentiating students between backward and non-backward classes, however in view of the misunderstanding among some sections of society the decision was withdrawn by the State Government from 6.6.1996.

This State Government has now decided to distribute khaki pant/white shirt and blue skirt/white blouse to the SC/ST students in Zila Parishad school under the scheme, in future.

[Translation]

Removal of G.M. Telephones, Lucknow

1883. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints on the basis of which the General Manager, Telephones, Lucknow was removed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to improve the telephone system in Lucknow?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) posting/transfer orders of Telecom officers are issued from time to time in order to achieve optimum efficiency in the Telecom services. Recently on such order was issued in respect of General Manager, Lucknow on 27.06.96.

(c) The following measures to improve Telephone services in Lucknow are being taken:

(1) Induction of new technologies in the network.

(2) Replacement of old and life-expired exchanges.

(3) Upgradation of outdoor plant.

(4) Computerisation of services. (Fault Control Services)

(5) Monitoring of the performance of exchanges at higher level.

(6) Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.

(7) Induction of digital microwave and optical fibre systems in the local network.

Development of Hot water springs

1884. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Bhim Bandh-Hot Water Spring and Rishi Kund Hot Water Spring in Monghyr district of Bihar as tourists spots; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) and (b) Development of Tourist Spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Department of Tourism provides funds for specific proposals received from State/Union Territories Government as per the guideline and based on merits, intense priority and availability of funds. The department